

Literacy, Language, and Culture: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)



Heba Mohamed, a TESOL graduate student with her practicum student.

Promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism in the classroom

Offering a holistic approach to language learning and a focus on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, the TESOL program will prepare you for success in the English language teaching field.

Graduates work **locally and abroad** in positions that include:

- K-12 ELL Teacher
- School District Leader
- Adult Education Teacher
- College ESOL Instructor

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

<p>Certificate of Graduate Study in ESL (English as a Second Language) - 15 credits</p>	<p>Master of Science in Education: TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) - 30 credits</p>	<p>Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in ESL (English as a Second Language) - 30 credits</p>
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The M.S.Ed. and CAS programs can meet Maine state requirements for ESL teacher endorsement, with prior teacher certification.
- **Online learning format**, with options for synchronous and asynchronous web-based coursework. On-campus classes are also available.
- Curriculum is grounded in literacy theory, focuses on speaking and listening skills, and places emphasis on teaching readers and writers.
- Only master's degree in TESOL offered in the state of Maine.
- Our graduates teach all over the world, including in the United States, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Belgium, and Egypt.
- The TESOL practicum (EDU 623) can be completed in your home community.
- Students learn alongside expert faculty, including full-time professors and outstanding practitioners who are accessible and committed to each student's success.
- Graduates are in high demand for their specialized expertise, which is necessary in local and global contexts.

ADMISSIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- No GRE is required for admission.
- Out-of-state students receive an e-tuition rate that is only slightly higher than in-state tuition and much lower than typical out-of-state rate.
- Options to start in fall, spring or summer.
- Programs may be completed in one year with fall start and full-time attendance.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Master of Science in Education in TESOL

Provides students with the knowledge base and practical skills related to English as a Second Language (ESL) acquisition by English language learners. The emphasis is on developing proficiency and literacy in English as a Second Language and/or English as a Foreign Language. The program provides practitioners with the skills needed to assess language and implement instruction to improve learners' proficiency for competent second language use.

The M.S.Ed. in TESOL is the only degree of its kind in Maine and is designed to accommodate the needs and goals of a wide range of ESL professionals working with culturally and linguistically diverse students, including K-12 teachers, adult educators, and those who teach or want to teach abroad. International students are encouraged to apply. This 30-credit program may be completed in one year with careful planning alongside a faculty advisor.

Certificate of Advanced Study in ESL

Designed to meet the needs of classroom teachers, administrators, and other educators who want to pursue advanced graduate study in ESL and related areas and/or earn Maine endorsement as an ESL teacher, K-12. **Master's degree required** for admission.

Certificate of Graduate Study in ESL

Offered to classroom and special education teachers, educational technicians, and other holders of baccalaureate degrees who would like to obtain foundational knowledge in English language learning.

Students who complete the certificate program receive official transcript recognition of their work and a certificate from the Literacy, Language, and Culture program. Credits earned from this certificate program may be transferable to a degree program. Certificate completers are able to plan effective instruction for English language learners and may earn state endorsement in ESL.



Practicum can be completed in your home community or anywhere in the world.

For more information:
Literacy, Language and Culture Programs
(207) 780-5968
michael.katz@maine.edu
8 Bailey Hall, USM Gorham Campus
usm.maine.edu/TESOL

For assistance with the application process:
Office of Admissions
(207) 780-4386
usmgrad@maine.edu

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS - MSED PROGRAM

Minimum requirements: Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in a baccalaureate degree program. Applicants who do not have a 2.5 overall GPA must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully. Without such a letter, applicants who fail to meet eligibility requirements may be automatically denied.

Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are up to the discretion of the admitting program.

APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- A submitted online graduate admission application.
- The application fee of \$65.00. The application fee is free for in-state Maine residents.
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, excluding the seven campuses of the University of Maine system. A transcript is official when it comes directly from the institution. If an applicant is submitting an official transcript, it must be in a sealed envelope from the institution indicating that it is an official document. If the envelope has been opened prior to arriving at the Office of Graduate Admissions, it is no longer considered an official transcript.
- Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's knowledge of current scholarship, capacity to connect theory and practice in posing and solving educational problems, achievement of excellence in educational practice, and demonstrated capability and motivation to engage in advanced graduate study. Recommendations are submitted using our online application form.
- Essay: See essay question at our website.
- Completed and signed Teacher Credential Summary Form.
- Certification of finances (international students only)
- Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language).
- Current resume.

Application requirements for the CGS in ESL and CAS in ESL may be found at usm.maine.edu/tesol